Rehabilitation of Child Workers

3568. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had evolved any scheme to rehabilitate the child workers;

(b) whether any State has such type of a scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any private Institution working for it; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and in what way Government are proposing to help them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) 'Yes', Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) and (e) 'No', Sir. However, under the various schemes of the Government aimed at benefiting child labour directly and indirectly, NGOs have been involved in a large way. Depending on the scheme, NGO's are financially supported partially or wholly for the implementation of various programmes/projects.

Non-payment of P.F. Loans to the Workers of M/s Unity Steel Company (Private) Ltd.

3569. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that all the workers and employees of M/s Unity Steel Company (Private) Limited, mini steel factory at Bhavnagar, Gujarat have been deprived of their monthly salaries for five months and therefore, they have applied for Provident Fund loan of Rupees 5,000/- each;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the concerned Provident Fund Office has failed to give them loan and is acting contrary to the Provident Fund Act; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) The establishment is reported to be under closure. Under the EPF Scheme, 1952 there is no provision for grant of loan to the subscribers. During the last one year 157 applications for advance from P.F. were received by the RPFC, Gujarat. All the claims found complete and admissible under the scheme have been settled.

(b) No, Sir

(c) Does not arise.

Condition of Women Labourers in Tea Gardens

3570. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the condition of women labourers working in Tea Gardens and in different industries in the country;

(b) how many women labourers are working in different industries;

(c) what is the position of women labourers in industrial sectors; and

(d) whether Government have taken any action to safeguard the working women's rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) The Plantations Labour Act, 1951 contains provisions for assuring to the workers reasonable amenities viz., supply of wholesome drinking water and suitable educational and medical facilities and provision for canteen and creches, provision for latrines and urinals of prescribed types for females separately, housing accommodation for each workers is also to be provided.

The Act also forbids night duty for women except with the previous permission of the State Government. However, this provision is not applicable to midwives and nurses employed as such in plantations.

Women labourers in different industries are provided similar facilities under Labour Laws such as Factories Act, 1948, Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 the rules framed under Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act and other labour laws.

(b) As per 1991 Census, the total female labour force including marginal workers in the country is 89,767,563. About 32.9% of women labour is employed in Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry and Fisheries. 9.1% in manufacturing, 7.4% in Mines and Quarries and balance 50.6% in construction, household industry, trade and commerce, transport, storage, communication and other services.

(c) and (d) There are special enactments such as Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 and Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 which are meant to safeguard their rights and secure them the required benefits and facilities. Some of the enactments provide for establishing separate facilities for women e.g., Factories Act, 1948, Plantation Labour Act, 1951, Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 Rules framed under Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. These facilities/welfare measures are provision of latrines/urinals, washing places and creches for care of their children. Employment of women during night hours is also not allowed under these enactments. In addition the Factories Act, 1948 prohibits employment of women in hazardous processes.

Some of the other enactments like Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Payment of Wages Act, 1936, Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, Workmen Compensation Act, 1923 do not make any distinction between male and female workers.

Strength of National Trade Unions

3571. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved a foolproof system of verification of the respective strength of all trade unions in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such a system;

(c) how often does such verification takes place;

(d) whether International Labour Organisation has given any advice on the best way to have a sound verification system of the membership of these trade unions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) The 29th Session of the Indian Labour Conference held on 21st & 22nd April, 1990 endorsed the procedure for verification of membership of Central Trade Union Organisations (CTUOs) as formulated by the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) in consultation with the CTUOs. A Standing Committee of CTUOs on general verification was constituted on 25.1.91 under the Chairmanship of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), to advise the Government on the issues related to the procedure of verification and monitor the progress thereof.

(b) and (c) Details of the verification procedure are at Annexure. [*See* Appendix 171, Annexure No. 58]

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.